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December 1, 2017

**VIA COURIER AND
UNITED STATES MAIL**

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor of the State of Louisiana
900 North Third Street, Fourth Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Re: North Louisiana Graduate Medical Education and Health Care

Dear Governor Edwards:

Please allow this letter to serve as our second and most urgent request to discuss options to collaborate with the State of Louisiana and Louisiana State University regarding graduate medical education and continued care for the uninsured or under-insured in the Shreveport and Monroe areas. We understand the State has granted BRF latitude to pursue options for addressing the problems in Shreveport and Monroe. We respectfully request a meeting as soon as possible to discuss a potential collaboration in greater detail.

The importance of keeping and improving graduate medical education in North Louisiana cannot be overstated. Historically, the vast majority of new doctors tend to remain in the geographical area where they were trained. With the shortage of physicians in Louisiana, it is imperative to keep our teaching facilities open and thriving. Similarly, the care provided to the most needy of the State must be preserved. University Health has historically served the Medicaid and indigent population. Preserving and enhancing their access to care is not only required under the Louisiana constitution, but critical to the long term development of growth of our State. While other providers may have historically been unwilling to partner with LSU and the State to support graduate medical education and care for the Medicaid and indigent population, LCMC and FMOLHS chose to support the State's goals to create successful partnerships in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Building on those successful relationships allows the State and LSU to capitalize on economies of scale and create a more consistent approach to graduate medical education throughout the State. Asking LSU to partner with yet another private organization would make the provision of graduate medical education more complicated and disruptive, as demonstrated by the current situation.

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The historic commitment by LCMC and FMOLHS to graduate medical education in Louisiana is evident. LCMC operates University Medical Center in New Orleans, which serves primary medical training institution for that area, hosting the greatest number of medical students and residents in the state. Likewise, FMOLHS has hosted LSU medical training programs since 2010, when it collaborated with the State and LSU to absorb the operations of the Earl K. Long facility and become LSU's primary site for medical training in Baton Rouge. FMOLHS built on that success by taking over the operations of the Bogalusa public hospital, preserving access to its services and the primary care training programs housed there. Both organizations have strong and productive relationships with LSU, its leadership, faculty and training programs. By all measures that experience has been successful. No other provider in the State can duplicate our success in partnering with the State and LSU when it comes to provision of care to the Medicaid and indigent populations.

Finally, FMOLHS has an established presence in North Louisiana. Its operation of the St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe and its historical commitment to the care of the Medicaid and indigent population in North Louisiana gives FMOLHS significant operational experience in North Louisiana. FMOLHS has an understanding of the training and patient care needs in North Louisiana that will be critical to successfully turning around the operations of University Health.

For these reasons it is apparent to us that FMOLHS and LCMC is the most logical, cost effective and synergistic collaborative for the State in addressing the need for health care in North Louisiana. At a minimum, we should be included in the discussions to help develop the best alternative for the State.

Respectfully,

**FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES
OF OUR LADY HEALTH SYSTEM**



By: _____
John Finan, President and CEO

LCMC HEALTH



By: _____
Gregory Feirn, CEO

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cc: Matthew Block
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